GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:913
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007
AGREEMENT WITH ASEAN
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and ASEAN have been unable to agree on the negotiation list of products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a summit was held in Philippines attended by India and ASEAN countries to discuss on free trade pact;

(d) if so, the details of deliberations made in this summit;

(e) whether there is a vast difference between India and ASEAN countries in regard to free trade agreement; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and concensus arrived on the Summit in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (f) Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between ASEAN and India was signed on 8th October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia. The negotiations for India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) are currently in progress. However, no final agreement has been reached.

The ASEAN-India Summit meeting was held on 14th Jan, 2007 at Cebu, Philippines where the modalities for reduction tariffs and size of the Negative Lists were discussed. The Negative List was finalised during this meeting.

The negotiations for India-ASEAN FTA are ongoing and both sides are discussing various aspects of the proposed Agreement, including the Negative Lists, Sensitive Lists and the modalities for tariff concessions offered by both sides.